

Who sends the best cables from London?
Who is the best dramatic writer and critic?
Who is the keenest of political artists?
Who sends the best dispatches from Washington?
Who is the funniest man in America?
Who is the cleverest wit in New York City?

Their Names Are Household Words.

PAGES 9 TO 16.

THE JOURNAL.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1896.—SIXTEEN PAGES.

Julian Ralph cables from London to the Journal!
Maurice Halstead is Havana correspondent of the Journal!
Alan Hale is dramatic critic for the Journal!
"Dan Quinn" is witty editor for the Journal!
Julius Chambers is Washington correspondent of the Journal!
Bill Nye is funniest man in America!
James J. Ford gives his whole time to the Journal!

WHERE ARE THE OTHER PAPERS?

PAGES 9 TO 16.

SOCIAL GIANTS

WAGING WAR.

The Love Affair of Two Young Notables Has Mixed Up the Four Hundred.

Young Vanderbilt's Alleged Betrothal to Miss Wilson Has Wrought the Mischief.

His Family Said to Be Angry and Estranged from the Astors.

THE YOUNG MAN IS DETERMINED.

Three Other Rumors of Coming Marriages Which May Prove to Be Most Interesting Affairs.

At the Patriarchs' Ball, Monday night, the Vanderbilts and Wilsons failed to speak as they passed by. Thus, along with the Lenten duties of the ultra-fashionable comes a social problem to be solved.

War has been declared between the houses of Vanderbilt and Astor. During

generations has been unequalled. The one absorbing topic of conversation for weeks has been the impending difficulties. Now that war has been openly declared, boudoir chats among the lesser lights of the social firmament will partake of the nature of advisory meetings. The world at large looks on and smiles, offering as a toast "The survival of the fittest."

Naturally the Astors resent the persistent efforts of Mr. Cornelius Vanderbilt and his wife to direct their son's attention from Miss Wilson, who is Carrie Astor's husband's sister. This feeling is shared by their numerous connections. Equally aggrieved are the Vanderbilt element, who declare the match entirely unsuitable. Miss Wilson is thirty years old. Cornelius Vanderbilt, Jr., has barely passed his majority. There is no question of social equality involved, each family is conspicuously distinguished.

Young Vanderbilt began his courtship at Newport last summer. He suffered from a slight attack of rheumatism in the early Fall, which necessitated a trip to the Hot Springs of Virginia, and interrupted his pleasant association with the object of his desires. Upon his return to the city he discussed a European trip with his parents. Before giving their consent Mrs. Vanderbilt and Miss Gertrude called upon Mrs. Richard T. Wilson and from her learned that the banker's family would not spend the winter abroad, as is their custom. This fact decided the Vanderbilts, who considered that it would be a clever stroke to put young Cornelius beyond the fascinating influence of Miss Wilson. He departed. Alas! "the best laid plans of mice and men oft go awry," so it was in this instance. Two weeks later Mr. Ogden Goetz, with his family, set sail

seems to be the rule rather than the exception. The Belmonts and Vanderbilts have always been exceedingly friendly and managed to maintain their pleasant relations with the divided house of the Jays and the marriage of Mrs. Alva Vanderbilt to Oliver H. P. Belmont. Then all intercourse ceased. The Belmonts are still devoted to the youngest member of the family, but are quite content to ignore Mrs. Belmont's presence. When invitations were issued to the late festivities at the Belmont mansion the couple were not included among the guests. Upon their departure for London members of the Belmont family bade Oliver an affectionate farewell, but made no allusion to Mrs. Belmont, who remained on deck, surrounded by the Jays and a few intimate friends, while Mr. Belmont promenaded the pier with his demonstrative relatives.

One other prospective marriage has set tongues wagging, and that is the supposed betrothal of William Waldorf Astor and Mrs. Randolph Churchill. The rumor is gaining ground daily and Mr. Astor's conspicuous devotion to Lady Randolph goes a long way toward confirming it. Should this marriage take place it will be forging another link in the chain of social complications.

WATER ON BURNING FAT.

Ignorance of a Volunteer Fire Fighter Results in the Injury of Several Men.

Several men were burned yesterday while trying to put out a fire in a room on the second floor of the three-story brick building, at Nos. 25 and 27 Hudson street. The room is used as a kitchen for the restaurant of Herman Wunderlich, at No. 27.

THEY DANCED INTO LENT.

Subscribers to the Tuesday Dances Merrily Closed the Season at Sherry's.

The Ballroom Was in Carnival Dress and Society Attended in Large Numbers.

MR. HADDEN LED THE COTILLON.

Mrs. Edmund L. Baylies Was His Partner. Favors Were Provided Which Carried Out the Spirit of Mardi Gras.

The last of the ultra-fashionable Tuesday evening dances began about 11 o'clock last night, and Ash Wednesday was several hours old before the cotillon was over. The large ballroom at Sherry's was the scene of festivity, for the whole establishment was, for it was given over to the "Howling Swells," as the subscribers to the Tuesday dances were originally called.

The place was in carnival dress, in honor of Mardi Gras. Flags hung above the heads of the dancers, between ropes of smilax, which radiated from an immense ball of green in the center of the ceiling, through which shone electric lights. Pink and yellow ribbons alternated with those of leaves, and, like the latter, were festooned into a tent effect roof. Palms stood

CHARGES AGAINST SMITH.

The Fire Board Receives Expert Callahan's Conclusions, to Which the Superintendent Replies.

Commissioners Ford, La Grange and Sheffield were present at a meeting of the Fire Board yesterday, at which the investigation into the charges made against J. Elliott Smith, Superintendent of the Telegraph Department, was resumed.

E. A. Callahan, an expert, employed by the Board, was present with his attorney, H. M. Cross. Mr. Smith was represented by Attorney J. Van Vechten Oelrich. Mr. Callahan submitted a review of the allegations against the superintendent, in which, after going over the ground, he presented the following conclusions:

"That the Pease signal system has been favored by the superintendent at the cost of the department, and at the constant risk of impairment of the public service, and that there have been unjust discriminations in the enforcement of the law requiring fire alarm connections by certain corporations and institutions; that large purchases of supplies have been ordered, recommended or approved by the superintendent, at prices largely in excess of market rates; that cable contract specifications were drawn in such form as to prevent competition, and also to render them worthless as a record of the work actually done. The cable construction has been carried on both under contract and otherwise, to the extent of \$402,000, in such a way as to make the cost to the city from \$150,000 to \$300,000 in excess of what it should have been."

Mr. Callahan further asserts that it was clearly shown by the evidence of Mr. McCarty, "that the specifications which Superintendent Smith admits that he drew, violate nearly all of the customary requirements of specifications, and would naturally tend to prevent competition in advance, and

INTENDED IT AS A JOKE.

Colonel Grant Replies in a Humorous Vein to Lawyer Conkling's Criticism of Commissioner Parker.

Lawyer Alfred R. Conkling does not appreciate the humorous reply Police Commissioner Grant sent to a letter protesting against Commissioner Parker's activity in support of the Greater New York bill. Mr. Conkling wrote that some large taxpayers, who paid their share of Mr. Parker's salary, did not approve of his frequent absences from his post of duty for the purpose of agitating the bill to increase their taxes 15 to 20 per cent.

Colonel Grant did not regard Mr. Conkling's protest seriously. So he answered him in a mildly sarcastic vein. Among other things he said that he would gladly join with Mr. Conkling in moving against Mr. Parker for his "extreme official negligence" were not the latter such a "mean cuss" that, under existing circumstances, the writer was apprehensive about moving in the matter. These circumstances, he explained, were the absence of President Roosevelt and of himself at various times, and also of his own intended four days' visit to Detroit, Mich. He added that Mr. Parker had even threatened to expose the fact that Commissioner Andrews was absent recently on a pleasure jaunt.

Mr. Conkling did not receive the letter yesterday, although it was mailed the day before. This was due to the fact that the letter was highly improper, and that Mr. Conkling did not go to the office at 170 Broadway and that Mr. Conkling did not go to the office at 170 Broadway and that Mr. Conkling did not go to the office at 170 Broadway.

"I have the honor to tender you the assurances of my most distinguished consideration," Mr. Conkling said. "I certainly think," said Mr. Conkling, "that Commissioner Parker's action in this matter is highly improper. I have no objection to his making speeches before social gatherings, but when he uses his official position to buy his way out of the bill I do strongly object. If this bill passes with section 3 as it now is, and comes to the Mayor for approval, representatives of \$100,000 will protest against it, and Commissioner Parker, if he is present, will hear some things regarding his connection with the bill that will be very complimentary."

Colonel Grant admitted sending the letter. He said that it was intended as a joke.

POLICEMEN ARREST 6 GOATS.

It Took Two Hours to Catch Them, and There Are More at Large.

The widow of Dr. Freeman lives in a large house with pretty grounds around it at West Farms. Mrs. Hanson, who does steevedore work along the Bronx River, lives near by in a less pretentious house with grounds around it that are somewhat neglected. Mrs. Hanson is one of the characters of the newly annexed district. She is a new woman.

Her husband was a steevedore. He died about five years ago. She is big and brawny, and took hold of the business herself. She lives here, but personally conducts the work. She has made it pay. She is probably the only woman steevedore in this country.

Mrs. Hanson keeps a herd of about twenty goats. They have been used to roaming about West Farms at will. Nobody ever thought of objecting to the depredations of the goats heretofore.

Finally the animals got into Mrs. Freeman's grounds and clung to her shrubbery. She then went to Police Captain Schmittberger, who has had plenty of Tenderloin experience, but is rather rusty on goat capturing. He sent four men yesterday afternoon. Roundsmen Fennell drove the prison wagon. Roundsmen Merrett rode horseback, and Policemen Jacob Does, tall and slender, and Charles Williams, stout and thick, went along to capture the goats. They took along several hundred feet of rope to tie the animals when captured. After two hours' chase, six out of the score of goats were made prisoners. Each goat was tied in the wagon. Then the three men had to sit on them to keep them quiet while they drove to the pound at One Hundred and Eighty-sixth street and Taylor avenue, two miles and a half away.

As soon as the policemen got over their experience of yesterday they will return and try to capture the rest of the goats.

SHE LIKES MEN'S CLOTHES.

Strange Affliction of the Daughter of a Morristown (N. J.) Business Man.

Morristown, N. J., Feb. 18.—Maud Long, the twenty-year-old daughter of a well-known business man of this city, has fallen the victim of a sad affliction. At every opportunity recently the girl would attire herself in men's clothing and, escaping from her home, would wander about the streets of the town. After consultation with several physicians her father finally became convinced that his daughter's mind was deranged and it would be best to have her taken to the asylum at Morris Plains.

For some time attempts to beguile the young woman away from home failed, but last Saturday her parents succeeded in coaxing her to Morris Plains, where she was placed in charge of the physicians.

YOUTHFUL STUDENT

IN SAFE CRACKING.

Mason, Eighteen Years Old, Is the Son of a Well-to-Do Boston Jeweller.

Worked in a Safe Factory to Learn Lock Mechanism and How Strong Boxes Are Constructed.

SOUGHT OUT A PRACTICAL BURGLAR.

Mason Confessed After He and His Confederate Were Arrested That They Had Broken One Safe and Planned a New Orleans Job.

The scientific study of safe cracking as a profession has been the undoing of an enterprising young man from Boston. William F. Mason, eighteen years old, known as the "boy cracksmen," was caught Monday by the authorities and on a charge of suspicious conduct is confined at Police Headquarters and his photograph is in the Rogues' Gallery. With him was Thomas Stevens, who is forty years old, and more experienced in the profession. Stevens was supplying the experience in practice to the firm, while Mason elucidated the theory.

Detectives Taylor and Deppert, of the West Thirty-seventh Street Station, after investigating the circumstances of their presence in the city, decided to arrest them, he was trying to buy a pound of nitroglycerine in the character of an experienced chemist. Stevens was apprehended in the former's room at No. 34 East Twelfth street. He was in bed at the time and under his pillow were found a disk and a revolver.

Mason was taken to Chief of Detectives O'Brien yesterday, and there, under examination by the Captain, made full confession of his plans and purposes. He said that his right name was Adams, and that he was a member of a good and prominent Boston family. His father had a jewelry store at No. 11 State street, Boston. He said that he had begun life in a safe-making factory in that city, and there had his ambition directed to the line of work he has since studied with apparent success. He took up the calling earnestly, and with a serious resolution to do great things in it.

His apprenticeship in the safe factory gave him all the needed experience and knowledge of technical details of construction. The theory of it he got from a little work by W. Moore, an old "Safe Blowing" man's son-in-law, entitled "Safe Blowing Made Easy."

This treatise the young man applied himself faithfully to master, and did, in fact, become so proficient as to win the applause of eminent cracksmen. His admiration for Moore was so great that he went to great pains to secure an introduction to that personage. At first the son-in-law of Vespurg refused to deal with so young and practically inexperienced an operator as Mason, but later, through the kindly offices of another cracksmen, he was introduced to him. He gave the young man the benefit of his personal attention. They even became so intimate as to arrange and plan out an elaborate little affair that should have of its consummation the blowing up of the safe of the New Orleans National Bank.

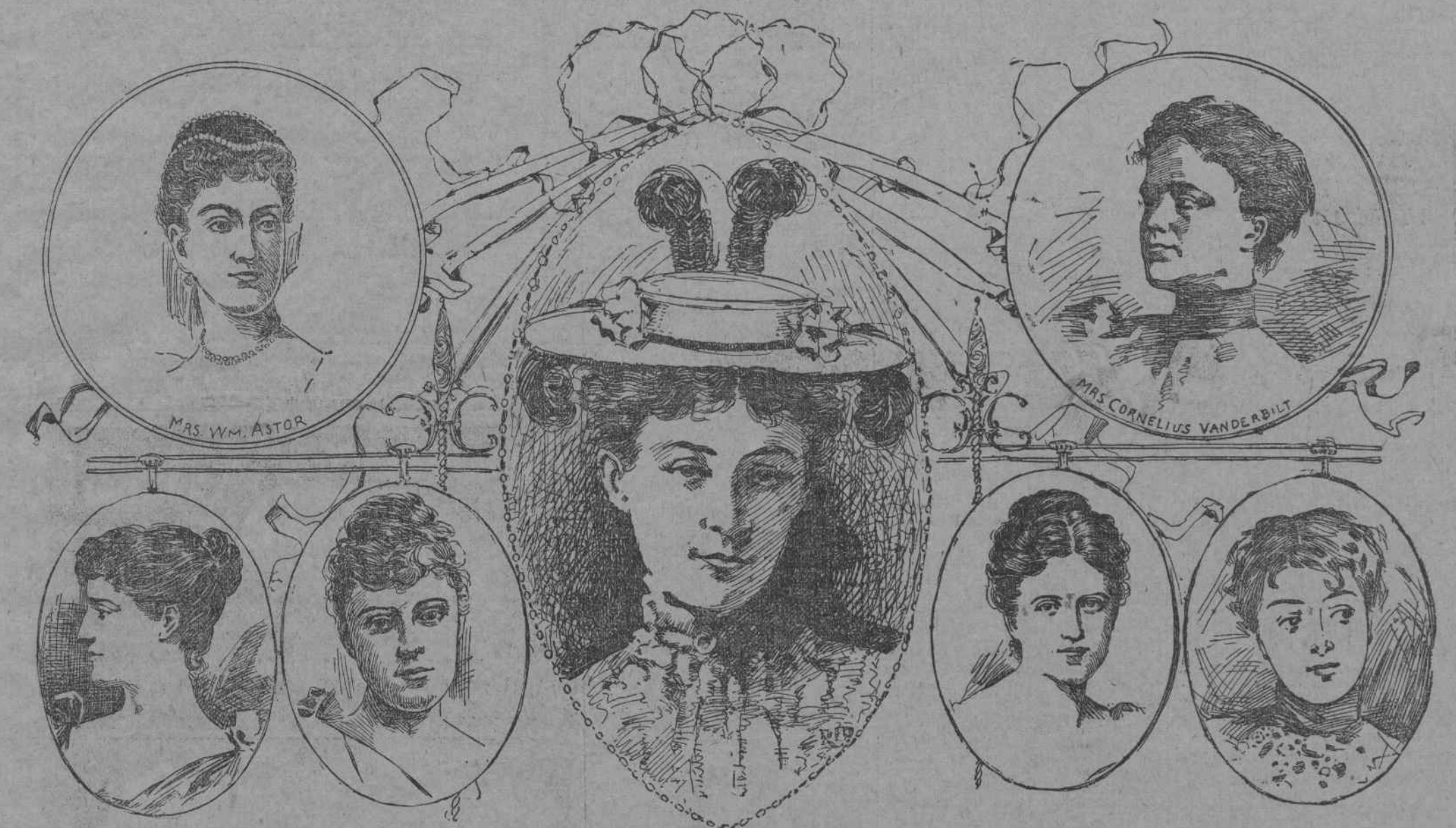
As the oldest and most prudent of the trio, Moore went ahead to make all needed preparations and pave the way for the execution of the job. When he had been some time in New Orleans he ran about the city and made application to his coadjutors for \$700 additional. To supply this sum Stevens and Mason found it necessary to crack a safe in the town of Newton, Mass., where the young man lived. They decided on the Newton Co-operative Bank as the fittest place for the work. It was a promising job, and young Mason looked forward to making his debut there with considerable credit. The direction of the operations was to be left entirely in his hands.

On January 8 the pair entered the bank and drilled three holes around the combination of the biggest safe. But there was a refractory piece of steel in the way that defied all their efforts to make the proper aperture. So they gave it up and deferred operations until one month from the day and then went to the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company's building and, despite the brilliant electric illumination of the structure, got in through the roof. This time the safe was easier of access and proved susceptible to their well-directed efforts.

Unfortunately, however, young Mason got too much powder into the cracks of the safe and the explosion caused the migration of Mason and Stevens to this city. It is believed by the detectives that it was a gang in New York and go extensively into the safe-cracking line.

Stevens denied Mason's story in Jefferson Market Court, where they were before Magistrate Brann, in the afternoon. He held them until to-day, in order that Chief of Police Richardson, of Newton, Mass., might get requisition papers.

FAMOUS SOCIETY WOMEN CONCERNED IN THE VANDERBILT-ASTOR EPISODE.



the cessation of gossips there is food for thought. To whom shall we swear allegiance? Is the question of the hour.

The latest development in the progress of affairs is the intended departure of Mr. and Mrs. Orme Wilson for the Continent. They go to join the Ogden Goetzels and Wilsons in Paris, and, incidentally, it is whispered, to be present at the anticipated marriage of young Cornelius Vanderbilt to charming Miss Grace Wilson. This turn in the tide of affairs widens the breach between the social antagonists and their followers.

It was remarkably amusing to observe at the Patriarchs' the meeting of mutual friends of the interested parties. The head of a family would play the agreeable to Mrs. Vanderbilt, while Madame reserved her sweetest smiles for Mr. Orme Wilson. The daughter of the household played the role of "Lady Diplomacy" one moment, expressing regret at young Vanderbilt's prolonged absence abroad, etc., as the case demanded, and in another instant extending congratulations and sympathy to the young couple whose sentimental woes are creating sad havoc in the ranks of the millionaire colony in this city.

It is said among the knowing ones that Mr. Vanderbilt is exasperated beyond measure at what he chooses to term "a youth's foolish infatuation." The edict has gone forth that the son of the Vanderbilt household will be relieved possibly of his income and certainly be deprived of his prospective fortune if he insists upon making Miss Wilson his wife. Clubmen are much exercised over the situation. They declare the strained relations between these leading factions means a permanent split in society. Recruits will be forthcoming from varied sources and "exclusive" will no longer define the realm of swifdom. Every man of prominence is endeavoring to bring about an amicable adjustment of affairs. Every woman of note is repeating to her neighbor the latest gossip upon this subject. The delicate task of espousing the cause of one or the other family will not be considered a pleasing Lenten diversion.

No more serious complications have ever arisen in the world of society. The social triumphs of the house of Astor have been many. The Vanderbilt fame for magnificent entertainments and as leaders for two

for Europe. Mrs. Goetz's sister, Miss Grace Wilson, accompanied them. Immediately upon their arrival at the French capital young Vanderbilt called. His attentions were renewed with vigor. Simultaneously with this announcement Worthington Whitehouse took ship for Paris. His mission was to bring the junior member of the family back with him. He returned in two weeks alone. The most recent advice from abroad declare the couple betrothed. The wedding, it is believed, will occur at no distant day. Society is on the qui vive. A cablegram announcing the marriage would startle no one.

The prominence of both families makes it interesting to note the personnel of opposing forces. On the one side of the battle royal will be arrayed Mrs. William Astor, Mrs. Jack Astor and Mrs. Orme Wilson, Mrs. Ogden Goetz, Mrs. D. O. Mills, the Wilsons, the Willings and the Cuttings and many other old Knickerbocker friends and their contingent of kindred. The other side will be marshalled by Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, Mrs. J. Seward Webb and Miss Gertrude Vanderbilt, who will be numbered among the followers of the Belmonts, Gerys, Sloanes, Camerons and more immediate friends. It is therefore the debatable question of the "sackcloth and ashes season" who will unfurl the flag of victory. After Lent, will it be the reign of the Astor dynasty or shall the Vanderbilts hold undisputed sway?

Proposals of this social agitation, the position is taken abroad that Willie K. Vanderbilt is soon to wed. He has always greatly admired the Duchess of Manchester, formerly Consuelo Ynzago, and report has it that she may be mistress of the Vallant. A bit of gossip concerning his previous devotion to the Duchess has been chronicled from time to time, and is being discussed nowadays with great eclat. On the occasion of a visit to this country made by the Duchess, Willie K.'s attentions were so marked as to call down the wrath of his father. It is said the old gentleman entered into a satisfactory arrangement with the lady in question which prohibited her return to these shores for a prolonged stay, hence the Duchess has not set foot on her native shores in many a day.

The Belmonts, too, are having their own troubles. Friction in the upper circles

Smoke was seen coming out of a window, and it was thought that the building was on fire. Passers-by went up to extinguish it.

On the hot stove was a kettle of grease that had boiled over and caught fire. Louis A. Tyler, a salesman, employed at No. 100 Duane street, acted with prompt, but ill-judged decision. He got a pail of water, did not know that water is not at all the best thing to put out a fire. He emptied the pailful upon the blazing fat, and in an instant flames filled the room.

The persons in the room were burned and dazed, but none of them seriously injured. All of them went to the Hudson Street Hospital. Peter Kenney, the most severely burned, was taken in an ambulance. Anton Webber, of No. 27 Hudson street, Alexander Talley, of No. 25 Hudson street, and Isaac Gumbel, were treated in the dispensary of the hospital and allowed to return to their homes.

Louis A. Tyler, who threw the water, was taken home by friends. Policemen Bergen was also badly burned.

The fire did not damage the building.

LAND GRANTS NOT EQUABLE.

The Secretary of the Interior Criticizes the Pending Senate Bill.

Washington, Feb. 18.—The Secretary of the Interior has sent to the Senate Committee on Public Lands his views on Bill 688 to equalize the several States of the Union in the grant of lands for public school purposes. He says California has received as its portion 9,719,324 acres, and it would require more than 240,000,000 acres to equalize grants to other States in the same proportion.

Under the provisions of the bill the Secretary says that Missouri would receive 1,162,136 acres, a shortage of 37,000 acres, and Indiana only 601,048 acres, a shortage of 40,289 acres, while Florida would receive 1,453,833 acres, a surplus of 45,150 acres. These discrepancies, the Secretary says, indicate that the committee should revise the schedule of the bill. He reviews other provisions of the measure in which he finds defects, and says he hopes his candid criticisms will aid the committee in framing a bill that will accomplish the end in view.

Two Hurt in a Runaway.

Jamaica, L. I., Feb. 18.—Dr. A. J. Blanchard and Charles Robinson, his hostler, were badly injured yesterday afternoon by being thrown out of the carriage while the horse was running away on Broadway. The carriage was a complete wreck.

in the corners and cut flowers were used wherever an excuse for them could be found.

RECEPTION COMMITTEE.

The guests were received by Mrs. Luther Kountze, Mrs. Cooper Hewitt, Mrs. S. Van Rensselaer Cruger and Mrs. Buchanan Winthrop, who stood at the ballroom door. Informal dancing began about 11 o'clock and continued until half-past 12, when supper was served. The supper was a triumph, even for Sherry, and left nothing to be desired, either in the matter of preparation or service. The menu was unusually choice.

The cotillon was called for 1.30 o'clock. It was led by Mr. Alexander Hadden, who had Mrs. Edmund L. Baylies for his partner. Some charming favors, carrying out the spirit of Mardi Gras, were provided, including sticks with masks and streamers, Elizabethan ruffs of chiffon, with streamers, large parrots on rings and sticks wound with pale blue ribbon and gauze.

SOCIETY IN EVIDENCE.

Everybody in the fashionable set still in town was at the dance, including Mrs. Astor, Mrs. John Jacob Astor, Mrs. M. Orme Wilson, Mrs. Lloyd Bryce, Mr. and Mrs. W. Starr Miller, Mr. and Mrs. L. Townsend Burden, Miss Evelyn Burden, Mr. and Mrs. Ellen Dyer, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. C. O'D. Iselin, Mrs. Der R. Bishop, the Misses Bishop, Mr. and Mrs. A. Duer, Miss Katherine Duer, Colonel and Mrs. William Jay, Mrs. John C. Willingood, Mr. Hamlin C. Forbush, Mr. Morgan, Mr. and Mrs. P. Lorillard Bonaldi, Mrs. J. Hampton Robb, Miss Louise Robb, Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Iselin, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. N. Le Roy Edgar, Mr. Thomas E. Cushing, Miss Cushing, Mrs. H. Mortimer Brooks, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Goslet, Mr. B. T. Wilson, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Anson Phelps Stokes, Miss Stokes, Mr. and Mrs. John Sherman Hoyt, Miss Blight, Miss Edith Blight, the Misses Currier, Mrs. Henry Clews, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Oelrichs, Miss Mabel Gerry, Miss Elizabeth Deland, Mr. and Mrs. P. Seward Webb, Mr. and Mrs. A. Lanier Norrie, Mrs. W. Maynard Cutting, Mrs. John Alston King, Miss Elizabeth T. King, Mr. and Mrs. Whitehouse, Mr. and Mrs. W. Storrs Wells, Mr. and Mrs. D. Ogden Mills, Mr. and Mrs. W. Watts Sherman, Miss Sybil Sherman, Mr. and Mrs. James Russell Foley and Miss Una Foley.

Mr. and Mrs. Duncan Elliot, Mr. and Mrs. George B. De Forest, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Mortimer, Mrs. H. A. C. Taylor, Mrs. Whitney Warren, Mrs. Brookholst Cutting and Mrs. J. Frederic Kermachan.

make critical examination afterward, difficult or impossible."

Mr. Smith made a short written answer in which he said he had substantially replied to the charges made by Mr. Callahan, and had no further comment to make, except to say relative to the 1890 contracts, that the computation of 92,890 feet of cable by him was due to a clerical error, and should have been 59,067 feet. The additional new evidence was taken and the hearing was adjourned to 3 o'clock this afternoon.

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Young Safe Cracksmen and His Companion.

Thomas Stevens, the elder, was arrested while buying nitro-glycerine, and through him William Mason, eighteen was taken in custody. He confessed to Captain O'Brien that he had made a study of scientific safe breaking. F. of a Boston Jeweller and he served an apprenticeship in a safe manufactory to learn lock contrivances and how to make burglar proof. He said that he and Stevens had broken a bank safe in Newton, Mass., and with planned to rob a New Orleans bank. All these statements Stevens denied.